

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 33-37 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend the caption on page 36, line 1, as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: ~~The claims defining the invention are as follows:~~

Please amend Claims 4, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 17, as follows:

1. (Original) A method of compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image; and

compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel, said altered opacity channel thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component

values of said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of utilising said altered opacity channel to composite the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said at least one object is one object of a grouped plurality of objects.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of applying a group.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compositing colour effect to said grouped plurality of objects and opacity component values of each object of said grouped plurality of objects with the colour and opacity component values of said image.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~anyone of claims 1 to 6~~, further comprising the step of inverting said opacity values of said altered opacity channel.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~anyone of claims 1 to 7~~, further comprising the step of copying said image to form an image copy.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of compositing colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with colour and opacity component values of said image copy.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said altered opacity channel represents opacity component values associated with said image copy remaining in said image copy following composition of said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with said colour and opacity component values of said image copy.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image copy remaining in said image copy following composition of said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with said colour and opacity component values of said image copy.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of utilising said altered opacity channel to composite the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~anyone of claims 1 to 12~~; wherein said associated colour and opacity component values of said object are accessed from an image file.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~anyone of claims 1 to 12~~; wherein said associated colour and opacity component values of said image are accessed from an image file.

15. (Original) A method of compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and

utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of utilising said altered opacity channel to composite the colour and opacity

component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~claim~~ any one of claims 15 or 16, wherein said at least one object is one object of a grouped plurality of objects.

18. (Original) A method of compositing a grouped plurality of graphical objects with an image, each said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

compositing the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

compositing said opacity component values of each of said objects with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and

utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of copying said image to form an image copy.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of compositing the colour and opacity component values of each object of said grouped plurality of objects with colour and opacity component values of said image copy.

21. (Original) An apparatus for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image; and

means for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel, said altered opacity channel thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

22. (Original) An apparatus for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

means for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce all altered opacity channel; and utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

23. (Original) An apparatus for compositing a grouped plurality of graphical objects with an image, each said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

means for compositing said opacity component values of each of said objects with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects.

24. (Original) An apparatus for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a program; and a processor for executing said program, said program comprising:

code for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

code for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image; and

code for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel, said altered opacity channel thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

25. (Original) An apparatus for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a program; and

a processor for executing said program, said program comprising:

code for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

code for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

code for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel;
and

code for utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

26. (Original) An apparatus for compositing a grouped plurality of graphical objects with an image, each said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a program; and

a processor for executing said program, said program comprising:

code for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

code for compositing the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

code for compositing said opacity component values of each of said objects with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel;
and

code for utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and

opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects.

27. (Original) A computer program for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said program comprising:

code for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

code for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image; and code for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel, said altered opacity channel thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

28. (Original) A computer program for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said program comprising:

code for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

code for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

code for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and

code for utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

29. (Original) A computer program for compositing a grouped plurality of graphical objects with an image, each said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said program comprising:

code for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

code for compositing the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

code for compositing said opacity component values of each of said objects with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and

code for utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects.

30. (Original) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for compositing at least one

graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said computer program product comprising:

computer program code means for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

computer program code means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image; and

computer program code means for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel, said altered opacity channel thereby representing the opacity component values associated with said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity components of said at least one object.

31. (Original) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for compositing at least one graphical object with an image, said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said computer program product comprising:

computer program code means for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

computer program code means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of said at least one object with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

computer program code means for compositing said opacity component values of said at least one object with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and

computer program code means for utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image following composition with said colour and opacity component values of said at least one object.

32. (Original) A computer program product having a computer readable medium having a computer program recorded therein for compositing a grouped plurality of graphical objects with an image, each said object and said image having associated colour and opacity component values, said computer program product comprising:

computer program code means for generating at least one opacity channel having associated opacity component values;

computer program code means for compositing the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects with the colour and opacity component values of said image;

computer program code means for compositing said opacity component values of each of said objects with that of said at least one opacity channel to produce an altered opacity channel; and

computer program code means for utilising said altered opacity channel to remove the colour and opacity component values of said image remaining in said image

following composition with the colour and opacity component values of each of said objects.

Claims 33-38 (Cancelled).